



Superior Court
Of the State of California for the
County of Yolo
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James B. Perry
Court Executive Officer

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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“The numbers are in,” announced Yolo Superior Court Presiding Judge David Rosenberg this morning. “The Yolo Superior Court handles more cases than ever, and our disposition rate is at an all-time high.”

Year-end court statistics for 2008 have now been finalized. The statistics show that 45,385 new cases were filed in the Yolo Superior Court in 2008, compared to 38,955 new cases filed in 2007, a 17% increase.

Not only have filings increased by a significant percentage, the disposition rate (the rate showing cases resolved and concluded) has increased as well. Total dispositions in 2008 for all case filings were 39,039, a dispositional rate of 86%. In 2007, 29,447 cases were resolved, a 76% dispositional rate.

“Our judicial officers and staff are working harder than ever,” said Judge Rosenberg. “We have no downtime. Of particular note is that in 2008, 2,101 new felony cases were filed – these tend to be major, time-consuming cases. Yet, 2,079 felony cases were resolved in 2008, a 99% dispositional rate, compared to 93% in 2007, 87% in 2006 and 79% in 2005. We are now resolving older cases and bringing newer cases to faster resolution. Our dispositional rates have never been higher.”

Judge Rosenberg attributed higher rates of disposition to the Court’s new direct calendaring system, first implemented in 2007 and refined in 2008. In this system, cases are assigned to a particular judicial officer who manages the case from start to finish. “In 2008,” said Judge Rosenberg, “our judges presided over 121 criminal jury trials and 12 civil trials, a remarkable number for a court of our size. Because we were prepared to try cases and not delay cases, other cases resolved before trial, and often at an early stage.”

By point of comparison, Judge Rosenberg noted that the court conducted 78 criminal jury trials in 2007 and 58 in 2006.

The statistics for 2008 show:

Felony	2101 filings 2079 dispositions 99% rate
Misdemeanor	7,746 filings 6,445 dispositions 83%
Infractions	27,799 filings 24,860 dispositions 89% rate
Civil (unlimited)	825 filings 619 dispositions 75% rate
Civil (limited)	2,674 filings 2,115 dispositions 79% rate
Probate/Mental Health	302 filings 229 dispositions 76% rate
Family Law	2,631 filings 1,1914 dispositions

	73% rate
Juvenile Delinquency	493 filings 210 dispositions 43% rate
Juvenile Dependency	193 filings 145 dispositions 75% rate
Total filings Total dispositions Rate	45,385 39,039 86%

Court Chief Executive Officer, Jim Perry, added “while case filings are at an all-time high in the Yolo court, it’s important to note that the number of judicial officers and staff has not increased to match the added workload created by a 17% increase.”

The Legislature and Governor have approved one new judgeship for the Yolo Superior Court, but due to the state’s budget issues, funding for that position has been postponed to July 1, 2009 at the earliest. A 2007 statewide study conducted by the Administrative Office of the Courts found that the Yolo Superior Court in 2007 required 16 judicial officers to handle its workload. Currently, the court is funded for 12.5 judicial officers.

“The Yolo Court system copes with the additional challenge of deficient court facilities,” said Judge Rosenberg. “We run our court system from seven scattered locations in Woodland, included courtrooms in rented space and courtrooms in trailers. Not one of our courtrooms is minimum standard size according to state standards. Our facilities for jurors, witnesses, the press and the public at large are sadly deficient.”

However, according to Judge Rosenberg, change is coming. “The Yolo Superior Court is at the top of the list among all 58 counties to receive a new courthouse.” said Judge Rosenberg. “Our plan is to open a new 16-courtroom courthouse for the people of Yolo County within 4-5 years.

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